

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Modern Industries Inc

Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center

Modern Reduces Costs Through Lean Techniques

Client Profile:

Modern Industries, a privately owned corporation with locations in Erie, Meadville, Pittsburgh and Kersey, Pennsylvania has four divisions, providing machining/manufacturing and assembly, heat treating, laboratory services, motion control devices and production workholding equipment to domestic and international customers. Founded in 1946, the company employs 360 people at its facility in Erie.

Situation:

Modern wanted to accelerate the pace of Lean manufacturing implementation in their machining division. After contacting local universities and trade organizations, Modern chose the Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center (NWIRC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to develop an ideal solution due to the working relationship developed with other training activities.

Solution:

Modern selected a consultant recommended by NWIRC, and agreed on a program combining training and project facilitation for a 10-person team. After receiving training in Lean manufacturing basics, the consultant guided the team through a Kaizen event targeting a machining and assembly process chosen in the preparation phase. The team documented the pre-Kaizen Value Stream Map, determined a future state map and action plan, then implemented a long list of improvements. These improvements include integrating the assembly and test stations into the machining cell, eliminating three to four large boxes of work in process, and drastic reduction in the associated material handling and handling-related part damage. After evaluating these improvements and documenting the new present state map, the team and facilitator presented a results summary to Modern's owners.

Results:

- * Realized \$25,000 in cost savings.
- * Reduced inventory by 23 percent on project part selected.
- * Reduced processing time by 37 percent on project part selected.
- * Implemented Poka-Yoke (mistake proofing) and ergonomic improvements.

Testimonial:

"The Lean training and Kaizen event facilitated through the NWIRC has fueled our implementation efforts and is obviously helping to transform our production operations."

David Jacquell, Employee Development Manager